

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR REFERENCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING ON ZAMBIA:NORWEGIAN
INTENTIONS

REF: STATE 154363

1. NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING
ON ZAMBIA IN PARIS, JUNE 27-29 WILL BE LED BY HAAKON B.
HJELDE, HEAD OF DIVISION, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ATTENDING WITH HJELDE
WILL BE PER TOBIESEN, NORWEGIAN AID DIRECTORATE (NORAD)
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN ZAMBIA AND KERSTI BRED-
BERG JOHANSEN OF NORAD. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CONTENT OF REFTTEL
WITH HJELDE, WHO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. THE GON HAS JUST COMPLETED ITS ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
CONSULTATIONS WITH ZAMBIA, WHERE FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE
LEVELS WERE AGREED UPON. THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPERATES
UNDER A ROLLING FOUR-YEAR COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM, AND
INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURES FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE (100
PERCENT GRANT) ARE ABOUT \$6.6 MILLION (35 MILLION NKR)
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PER YEAR FOR THE PERIOD 1979-82.

3. NORWAY'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH ZAMBIA DATES
BACK TO 1967, WHEN THAT COUNTRY WAS DESIGNATED AS ONE OF
NORWAY'S PRINCIPAL COOPERATION PARTNERS. NORWEGIAN ASSIS-
TANCE IS TRADITIONALLY GIVEN IN THE FORM OF LONG-TERM,
QUOTE PURE DEVELOPMENT UNQUOTE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS, AND

THE GON SEES ITS LONG-STANDING BILATERAL PROGRAM AS A PART OF THE FOUNDATION WHICH WOULD UNDERLINE ANY ADDITIONAL EFFORTS RESULTING FROM THE PARIS MEETING OF DONORS. DUE TO THE FACT THAT ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED, BECAUSE THIS YEAR'S AID BUDGET SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, AND BECAUSE NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE LEVELS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO RISE ABOVE THE ALREADY ACHIEVED ONE PERCENT OF GNP IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, NO FURTHER PLEDGES TO ZAMBIA ARE ANTICIPATED.

4. IN SPITE OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, ZAMBIA DID NOT ASK FOR ACCELERATED DISBURSEMENTS IN THE LATEST AID CONSULTATIONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GON HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY WITH ZAMBIAN IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS, HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED BY PROJECT DELAYS, AND HAS EXPERIENCED GENERAL QUOTE PIPELINE UNQUOTE PROBLEMS (SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED AT THE PARIS MEETING). PARADOXICALLY THIS HAS RESULTED IN NORWEGIAN AID FUND REALLOCATION INTO COMMODITY ASSISTANCE--A SORT OF INDIRECT METHOD OF ADDRESSING CURRENT ZAMBIAN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

5. NORWEGIAN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS ARE ALREADY DIRECTED AT SOME OF THE PRIORITY AREAS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE IBRD MEETING. AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECEIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS. LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTENSIVE PROJECTS, THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING ARE OTHER KEY AREAS. DETAILS OF THE GON BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BE SPELLED OUT AT THE PARIS MEETING.
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